

cc: The Honorable James H. Quello  
The Honorable Susan Ness  
The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong  
The Honorable Paul S. Sarbanes  
The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski  
The Honorable Steny H. Hoyer  
The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin  
The Honorable Constance A. Morella  
The Honorable Wayne T. Gilchrest  
The Honorable Albert R. Wynn  
The Honorable Roscoe G. Bartlett  
The Honorable Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.  
The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings



**Wyoming  
Hospital  
Association**

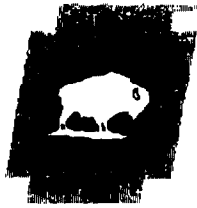
DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

**FAX MEMO**

TO: Commissioner Rachelle Chong  
FROM: Dan Lerdue  
DATE: 5/6/97  
SUBJECT: FCC Vote

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER PAGE 2

RESPONSE REQUESTED    Yes                                 No



# Wyoming Hospital Association

CC 94-45

SUNSHINE PERIOD


RECEIVED

MAY 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

## MEMO

TO: COMMISSIONER JIM QUELLO  
COMMISSIONER RACHELLE CHONG  
COMMISSIONER SUSAN NESS

FROM: DAN PERDUE, VICE-PRESIDENT  
WYOMING HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION 

DATE: MAY 6, 1997

SUBJECT: FCC VOTE ON UNIVERSAL SERVICE POLICY

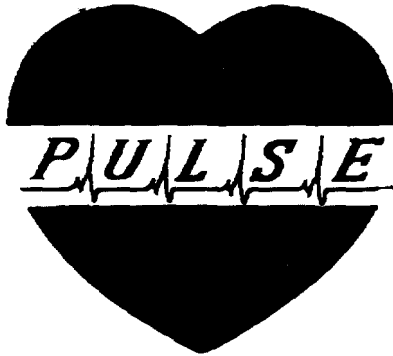
I am contacting you in connection with your pending vote on the above referenced policy which has a significant bearing upon telecommunication rates for rural health care providers. As I understand it, the FCC must make telecommunications rates for eligible health care providers comparable to telecommunications rates for similar services in urban areas.

Wyoming is often classified as a frontier state, with less than five residents per square mile. Our twenty-five acute care facilities play an extremely important role in our health care delivery system, as well as the approximately eight hundred practicing physicians. We often face barriers and restrictions in providing health care known only to sparsely populated areas. Lowering telecommunication costs for rural health care providers to those comparable to costs faced by urban health care providers allows us not to be penalized for the geographic location in which we serve.

On behalf of our membership, I urge you to promote the concept that Universal Service should support distance charges and toll-free connections to the Internet.

Thank you for your attention to this critical area of concern.

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**CLINTON REGIONAL HOSPITAL**

P. O. BOX 1569

CLINTON, OKLAHOMA 73601

TELECOPY COVER SHEET

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TO: Commissioner Rachelle Chung  
Federal Communications Commission

FAX NUMBER: (202) 418-2820

FROM: George W. Orchner

NUMBER OF PAGES: 2 total

DATE: 5/6/97

SUBJECT: Universal Service Policy

FAX NUMBER: (405) 323-8388

COMMENTS:

IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE ALL THE PAGES OR FIND THEY ARE ILLEGIBLE, PLEASE CALL  
(405) 323-8292.

SUNSHINE PERIOD

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# CLINTON REGIONAL HOSPITAL

"The Heart of a Healthy Community"

C 096-45

RECEIVED

MAY - 8 1997

May 6, 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Commissioner Rachelle Chong  
Federal Communications Commission

Dear Commissioner Chong:

The purpose of this letter is to encourage you to vote in favor of the Universal Service Policy which is part of the implementation of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Clinton Regional Hospital has a telemedicine system connected to Baptist Medical Center in Oklahoma City. This system provides real time video conferencing, but the line charges are over \$1,000 per month. Any relief we could receive through the approval of the Universal Service Policy would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



George H. Dashner, FACHE  
President

GHD:dv

Baptist Memorial Hospital - Union County  
200 Hwy. 30 West  
New Albany, MS 38652  
(601) 538-7631

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**FAX COVER PAGE**

This transmission (including this cover page) contains 2 pages.

DATE OF FAX: May 7, 1997

TIME OF FAX: 10:40

PLEASE DELIVER TO: Commissioner Chang

LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX NUMBER: 202-418-2820

If any part of these pages is not legible, or you do not receive all the pages, please telephone the main number listed with the address above and request the sending department as soon as possible.

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION: BMH-UNION COUNTY

FAX NUMBER: John Tompkins

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**CONFIDENTIALITY NOTE:** The information contained in the facsimile message is legally privileged and confidential information intended only of the use of the individual or entity named above. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this telecopy is strictly prohibited. If you received this telecopy in error, please immediately notify us by telephone or return the original message to us at the above address via the U.S. Postal Service. We will reimburse you for the postage. Thank you.

CC 96-45

**Baptist Memorial  
Hospital Union County**

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Highway 30 West  
New Albany, MS 38652John Tompkins  
Administrator

601-538-7631

May 6, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY - 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of SecretaryCommissioner Rachelle Chong  
Via Facsimile: 202-418-2820**SUNSHINE PERIOD**

Dear Commissioner Chong:

It is our understanding that the Federal Communications Commission is scheduled to vote this week to adopt regulations governing "universal service" policies as part of the implementation of the Telecommunication Act of 1996.

The universal service policies of the Act mandate that the FCC direct telecommunication rate subsidies to schools, libraries and rural health providers. In the case of health care, the FCC must make telecommunication rates for eligible health care providers comparable to telecommunications rates for similar services in urban areas.


The goal of this provision is to lessen the difference between the quality of health care services available in urban areas and those in rural areas, many of which suffer from a lack of health care resources and access to medical professionals, as well as the burden of being at greater distances from advanced medical technology and treatment facilities.

We feel that "telehealth" has the potential to help our member hospitals and health systems improve the quality and lessen the cost of health care delivery in rural areas. That is why we hope you will help keep the telecommunications costs for our facilities as low as possible by adopting the following policy positions related to universal service provisions:

- Universal service should support distance charges.
- Universal service should support toll-free connections to the Internet.

Thank you for your immediate consideration and support on this issue. If I can provide additional information, or be of assistance in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

  
John Tompkins  
Administrator



# BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

RUDOLPH F. CREW, Ed.D., Chancellor

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

110 LIVINGSTON STREET - BROOKLYN, NY 11201

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

**SUNSHINE PERIOD**

April 29, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814  
Washington, DC 20554

**MAY 8 1997**

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Dear Chairman Hundt:

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

I am writing to express my support for the recommendations of the Joint Board and to urge you to implement rules that ensure discounts are provided on all telecommunication costs at a level that will bring about full, equitable and affordable access to telecommunications services for eligible schools and libraries.

The bipartisan support for the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the subsequent unanimous recommendations of the Joint Board represent unprecedented support for our efforts to bring every classroom into the Information Age. In New York City and across the country, too many of our schools, particularly those serving our poorest children, have been unable to afford the costs of telecommunications access. These costs include wiring schools and classrooms as well as the costs for telecommunications services. This important legislation can help correct the problem of unequal access to telecommunications so every child has the opportunity to prepare for a society and a workplace that increasingly requires technological competency.

The Joint Board's recommendations include two components that are critical to providing telecommunications access to New York City Students: the use of ability to pay measures in determining discount rates and the inclusion of discounts on internal, classroom connections. In New York City almost 80 percent of our children are eligible for Free and Reduced Price Lunch and many of these same children attend schools that are over 50 years old with outdated and inadequate wiring. The recommended use of Free and Reduced Price Lunch eligibility as the ability to pay measure will direct essential resources to school with high concentrations of Title I Children while the application of discount rates to services for wiring and connectivity of schools will assist us in our efforts to bring technology to all our schools. I strongly support these recommendations and urge you to adopt them in your final rules.

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman

Page2

April 29, 1997

Implementation of the Universal Service Fund on May 6 will propel our own efforts to provide technology access to all our students. We are taking major steps in harnessing technology to improve instruction and to increase student learning. In June we will release our comprehensive technology plan which reflects our determination to bring technology to all our students. The integration of technology into the curriculum will be supported by staff development and technical maintenance. We are also working with the Mayor and our City Council on a major infusion of computers in the classrooms. Many of these computers will become the gateway to the Internet for students in every grade. However, we need the reductions on all telecommunication services to make access affordable and to allow redirection of savings to hasten the necessary rewiring of our schools. We also need to be able to utilize the proposed discounts as a school system rather than on a school basis. The recommendations of the Joint Board do not clearly address this aspect of the administration and distribution of discounts but it is a critical issue for the smooth operation of the plan in New York City, a system that includes over 1,000 schools.

To maximize the value of the Universal Service Fund, I urge you to consider a mechanism for oversight that will act as a safeguard against waste or misuse and ensure compliance with the intent of the legislation. Although a maintenance of effort provision would ensure that savings from the discounts are used for advanced telecommunications services, it could also be used to impose rigid guidelines on how schools use the savings to advance and support their technology plan. An approach to oversight that I support is the "representative oversight committee" established in the New York State plan for intrastate services. Such a committee would monitor and make recommendations on level of effort to ensure that discounts are being used to encouraged advanced telecommunications and information services.

I urge you to act on these recommendations to help us move our schools swiftly and fully onto the Information Superhighway.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rudolph F. Crew', written in a cursive style.

Rudolph F. Crew  
Chancellor

RFC:jmd

SUNSHINE PERIOD

GALENA-STAUSS HOSPITAL  
AND NURSING CARE FACILITY**FAX TRANSMISSION**

One (1) Total pages, including this page:

TO: Eileen Duff

COMPANY: Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

FAX #: (202) 418-2820

FROM: Roger D. Hervey, Administrator

COMPANY: Galena-Stauss Hospital

PHONE #: (815) 777-1340

DATE: May 7, 1997

MAY 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary**SUBJECT: Universal Service**

We are a small, rural, public hospital located a small town of less than 5,000 population, in rural county of less than 25,000 population in extreme North West Illinois.

Our primary referral hospitals are located 20 miles West in Dubuque, Iowa.

We have limited telemedicine connections to one of these hospitals. The related inter-state and inter-phone company regulations and bureaucracies were a nightmare to establish this service and are an on-going headache to maintain. The cost is very high at over \$1,000 per month for one line for this relatively short distance. We would have additional telemedicine and telecommunications with the Dubuque hospitals and physicians' offices if the costs were lower.

To assist with the costs of telecommunications, we respectfully request that you approve "Universal Service Support for Distance Charges" which we understand the FCC is deliberating at this time.

Similarly, since the population of our community is low, we do not have access to the national internet access companies. We can access them only by using high priced toll calls.

Again, to assist with the high costs involved, we respectfully request the FCC to approve "Universal Service Support for Toll-Free Connections to the Internet."

Thank you for your attention to and assistance with these matters.

**HENC**  
**Hawaii Educational Networking Consortium**  
Department of Education / East-West Center / University of Hawaii

CC 96-48  
DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

April 29, 1997

**SUNSHINE PERIOD**

**MAY 8 1997**

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Reed Hundt  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt,

The purpose of this communication is to share the collective views of the Hawaii Educational Networking Consortium. HENC is an alliance formed in 1994 by the University of Hawaii, the State Department of Education and the East-West Center. The mission of the consortium is to facilitate and accelerate the use of telecommunications technology in education and research in the State of Hawaii. Collectively these three entities have a combined user base of over 370,000 students, adult learners, faculty, and staff within the State.

HENC would like to forward to you our observations on two recent issues before the FCC and provide our input for the record. The two issues relate to:  
1) Universal Service and discounted rates to education; and, 2) Digital Television (DTV) and the potential public interest benefits that education could receive from spectrum allocation.

**1) Relating to Universal Service**

After reviewing the FCC's recommended Universal Service decision constructed by the Federal-State Joint Board we offer the following comments on the upcoming May decision and the relationship of education to the

telecommunication infrastructure. Overall HENC believes that the proposed direction that the joint board has identified in their support for schools and libraries is equitable.

We find that the Joint Board recommendations are largely consistent with our perception of the intent of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The recommendations for all qualified schools and libraries to be made eligible to receive discounts of between 20 and 90 percent on all telecommunications services, Internet access, and internal cable connections is fair. We are also pleased that the board concluded that economically disadvantaged schools and libraries, as well as schools and libraries located in high cost areas (such as Hawaii), should receive greater discounts to ensure that they have affordable and equal access to telecommunication and information services.

The proposed rules would be good for K-12 education in Hawaii. Since Hawaii has been already been aggressive in seeking connectivity for the public schools, HENC firmly believes it is important that the final Universal Service rules apply the discount levels to *already-existing programs and contracts*.

There is one additional point of great interest to HENC. In the Joint Explanatory Statement of the Committee of Conference of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, on page 19, New subsection (h)(5) which defines the entities that are eligible for discounts the following statement is made:

*"The conferees intend that consortiums (sic) of educational institutions providing distance learning to elementary and secondary schools be considered an educational provider for purposes of this section."*

We believe that this statement and our on-going collaboration should open the door for discounts for the University of Hawaii. As a point of interest, today the University of Hawaii's Distance Learning and Instructional

Technology (DLIT) division estimates that 25% of its staff time is spent on the delivery of distance learning services in support of elementary and secondary education. Subsequently, HENC is very interested in having this conference committee language recognized by the FCC ruling.

## **2. Relating to Education and Digital Television (DTV)**

The FCC, in its April 3, 1997 new policy statement relating to DTV, shows an aggressive move away from its previous "command and control policy" toward a market orientation for the business of digital television. This is demonstrated by the Commission's adoption of a DTV plan described by yourself as one that calls for "instant licensing and a rapid build out."

While HENC applauds this market driven move we also believe that great and immediate attention must be paid to the public interest benefits that education should receive from digital television and this public spectrum. We are concerned that the Commission has not yet adopted specific new public interest rules for broadcasters in the digital world. Instead, you have deferred the policy making on this matter which calls out for a clear definition of public interest obligations.

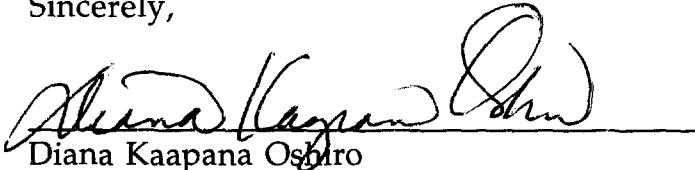
HENC believes that it is critical that the FCC attaches immediate and specific public interest duties to the new DTV licenses. What is needed is clear, enforceable conditions requiring educational mandates. Given the many thousands of additional programming hours that will be available to broadcasters using digital technology, we believe that a modest 5% of programming time on digital TV at a minimum should be devoted to public interest.

We are hopeful that the FCC, with or without guidance from the administration or Congress will mandate those who are charged with overseeing the "instant and rapid DTV build out" to also expend considerable and immediate time to stake a claim for public benefits from this public spectrum before it is fully opened for commercial development. We believe that the time for this discussion is now.

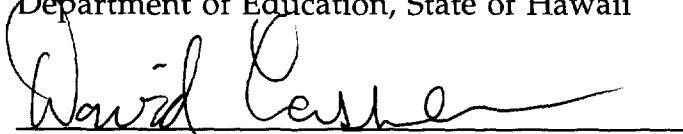
Page 4, April 29, 1997.

In conclusion we would like to thank you for your tireless efforts in forging new policy relating to all aspects of the complex communication arena. We have hope that the rules that are currently in formation will be viewed in the future as the enduring foundation of the information super highway. It is our hope that these rules will assist the schools and libraries to better serve the people and also plan for parks and rest areas along the way.

Sincerely,



Diana Kaapana Oshiro  
Assistant Superintendent, Office of Information & Telecommunication Services  
Department of Education, State of Hawaii



David Lassner  
Director, Information Technology Services  
University of Hawaii



Kenji Sumida  
President  
East West Center



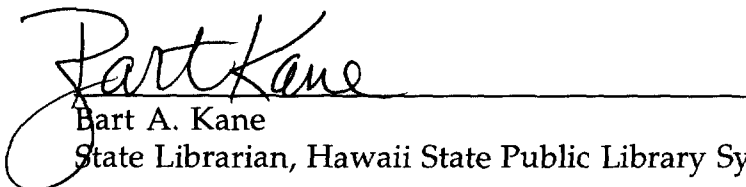
Carol Fukunaga  
Senator, District 12



David Y. Ige  
Senator, District 17



Thomas Yamashiro  
Administrator, Information & Communication Services Division  
Department of Budget and Finance, State of Hawaii



Bart A. Kane  
State Librarian, Hawaii State Public Library System

Margaret M. Royal  
Route 1 Box 88  
Milan, GA 31060

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

MAY 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M St. NW, Room 814  
Washington, D. C. 20054

SUNSHINE PERIOD

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I write in support of meaningful discount on telecommunications services for schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The Telecommunications Act – through its Universal Service Fund provisions – mandates the development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so that they can secure services at affordable prices.

There is no doubt that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all of our nation's people. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-long learners can connect with the technology they would need to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the Federal Communications Commission a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to schools and libraries. These recommendations would give our learning institutions significant discounts on all services that are commercially available, with deeper discounts for those schools and libraries least able to pay and more expensive to service. All schools would get discounts on connections to classrooms and Internet connectivity, both of which are essential to providing the most advanced learning opportunities to the greatest number of students.

I urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discount for a full range of services, and give schools and libraries flexibility in choosing the services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Sincerely,

*Margaret Royal*

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL  
SUNSHINE PERIOD

April 29 '97  
96-4  
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MAY 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Dear Chairman Hundt,

As a teacher who looks forward to having her students use computers more to learn this year and in the future, I support the idea of discount rates for internet connections for schools.

Kids can get so much useful information for reports and for making decisions. We cannot ignore the fact that those who lack skills to access information are doomed to live as second class citizens.

Sincerely,

Roberta Bullis

MAY

The May Department Stores Company  
Office of Legal Counsel

Frank J. Williams, Jr.  
Vice President  
Public Affairs

96-45  
SUNSHINE PERIOD DCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED

MAY 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

**VIA AIRBORNE EXPRESS AND FACSIMILE**

May 2, 1997

Chairman Reed E. Hundt  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. Street NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

My name is Frank J. Williams, Jr., and I am the Vice President of Public Affairs and Senior Counsel of The May Department Stores Company ("May"), a retail department store company with 366 stores in 30 states and the District of Columbia and over 111,000 employees. I am writing to express May's concern about the Federal Communications Commissions proposed action to establish a "Fair and Equitable Rate Charge" of \$4.50 per line per month for the first year and \$6.00 per line per month for the second year on business users of multi-line telephones. The impact of this proposed charge on companies such as May would be substantial, particularly when combined with the proposed increase in the subscriber line charge. For smaller retailers, the increase would be even more dramatic.

While May understands that the purpose of the increase in rates is to fund the wiring of schools and libraries for Internet access, we do not understand the rationale of placing such a substantial burden for such programs on businesses. The impact from the new charges on larger and smaller retailers would be in the tens of millions of dollars per year. Such increases in costs by retailers could ultimately mean increased costs to consumers, which would not create any long term benefit to the general public.

We ask that you consider the serious impact the new rates will have, not only on the business community, but on the public as a whole and that you encourage the Federal Communications Commission not to take an action which would have such a substantially negative impact on business and private citizens. If you have any questions concerning May's position on this issue, or if I can provide any additional information, please call me at (314) 342-6461.

Sincerely



Frank J. Williams, Jr.

Mailed 5/3

CC96-45

SUNSHINE PERIOD

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MAY 8 1997

Conemaugh Valley School District  
1451 Frankstown Road  
Johnstown, PA 15902  
April 30, 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

SUNSHINE PERIOD

Dear Chairman Hundt,

I am a member of the Conemaugh Valley School District's Technology Committee, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools and, importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the work force of tomorrow.

The Conemaugh Valley School District would use the discounts to develop secondary and elementary school wide area networks which would provide Internet connectivity for approximately 1200 elementary and secondary school students and staff.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Barbara Leap

SUNSHINE PERIOD

CC 96-85

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

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MAY 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Conemaugh Valley School District  
1451 Frankstown Road  
Johnstown, PA 15902  
April 30, 1997

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The Conemaugh Valley School District would use the discounts to develop secondary and elementary school wide area networks which would provide Internet connectivity for approximately 1200 elementary and secondary school students and staff.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Cynthia Hudson*

CC 96-85

SUNSHINE PERIOD

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Conemaugh Valley School District  
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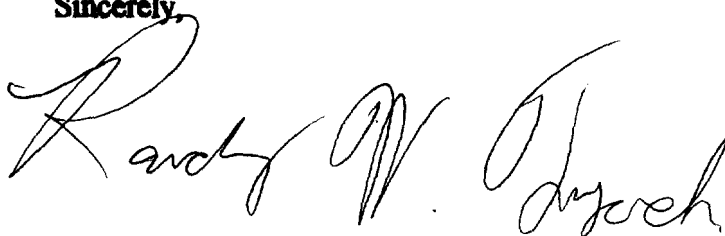
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Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Randy W. Dwyer". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

CC 96-45  
SUNSHINE PERIOD

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Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Michelle M. Locher*

CC 96-45  
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Conemaugh Valley School District  
1451 Frankstown Road  
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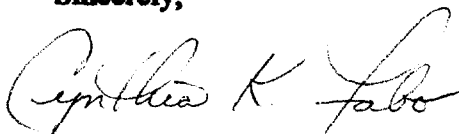
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Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



SUNSHINE PERIOD

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1451 Frankstown Road  
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Dear Chairman Hundt,

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The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools and, importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the work force of tomorrow.

The Conemaugh Valley School District would use the discounts to develop secondary and elementary school wide area networks which would provide Internet connectivity for approximately 1200 elementary and secondary school students and staff.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely, *Marianne Studer*

C C 96-45

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MAY 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Conemaugh Valley School District  
1451 Frankstown Road  
Johnstown, PA 15902  
April 30, 1997

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Bob Ritter

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*Joseph R. Bitter*